

26 April 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: DOD-White House Relations

1. Attached for your information is a rather interesting document -- a 21 April memorandum from Laird to Kissinger. This was sent privately to me by Laird after our conversation this morning (26 April).
2. Our session led off with a discussion of the current SRG exercise, which Laird regarded with something less than enthusiasm professedly because he believed Kissinger and the NSC Staff were not asking or looking at the right questions. I gave Laird a quick oral rundown on the contents of our structuring and argument of the logistics capabilities memorandum. He said this sounded like precisely what was needed. It was in the course of discussing the larger issues of the war and, particularly, the extent to which Hanoi's actions are likely to be targetted against US domestic opinion that Laird brought up the matter of his exchange with Kissinger.
3. As you will note in the attached, Laird is in effect saying that his colleagues will comply with Kissinger's requests to the extent that they are able to do so but he already has them working on a broader (read better) range of problems. Also note his stated intent to submit his findings directly to the President with an info copy to Kissinger.
4. We are not in this cross-fire and I shall, of course, do everything possible to keep us out of it. It is useful to know, however, that this exchange has taken place. On a related matter, I told Laird how we proposed to handle Nutter's request for material on Cambodia in conjunction with DIA. He seemed pleased and said any way we wanted to do it was fine with him.

1- Dad Harrison Watt
1- Mac Blum Watt ✓
1- Memo To From DCI Watt

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

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